

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
3 February 2005 (03.02.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2005/009236 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **A61B 5/103**,
5/00, G01J 3/00, G01N 21/47, 21/65, 21/64

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/IB2004/051291

(22) International Filing Date: 26 July 2004 (26.07.2004)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
03102380.7 31 July 2003 (31.07.2003) EP

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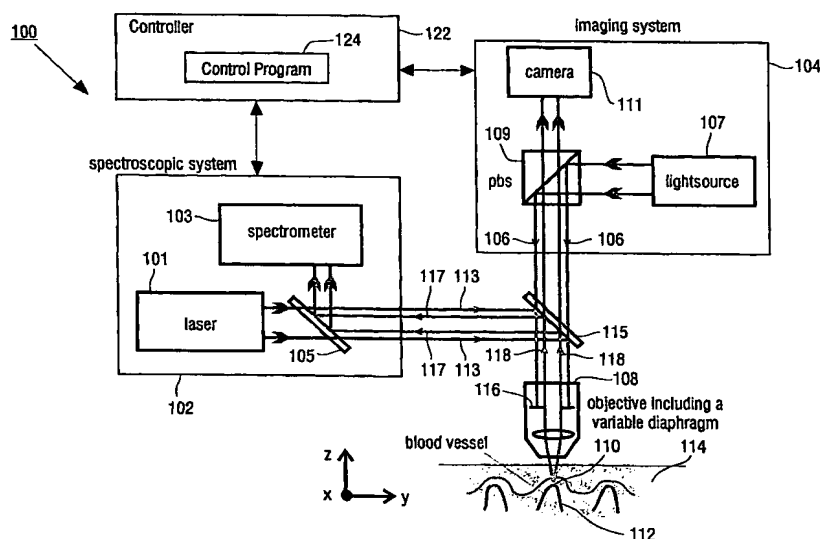
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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM,
AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN,
CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI,
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TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM,
ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH,
GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM,
ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),
European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI,
FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI,

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DETERMINING A PROPERTY OF A FLUID WHICH FLOWS THROUGH A BIOLOGICAL TUBULAR STRUCTURE WITH VARIABLE NUMERICAL APERTURE



(57) Abstract: The present invention provides for an apparatus and a method for determining a property of a fluid which flows through a biological tubular structure, such as blood flowing through a capillary vessel (112) under the skin (114). This enables in vivo non-invasive blood analysis. An objective (108) having a variable numerical aperture (116) is used to enable automatic detection of a blood vessel (112) and to provide a high signal to noise ratio of the return radiation for the purposes of the spectroscopic analysis and to provide a small detection volume that fits completely within the target region.



SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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Published:

- *with international search report*
- *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*